



SPECIAL OPERATIONS/
LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2500

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY)
CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: Criteria for Reporting Drug Use in the Military Drug Testing Program

This memorandum reaffirms previous cutoff concentrations used for reporting drug use results in the Department's military personnel drug abuse testing program and authorizes a new heroin testing method with associated cutoff concentration. The required Department cutoff concentrations for each drug or metabolite measured in an initial and confirmation test is shown in the attached table in units of nanograms per milliliter (ng/mL). Donors will be reported as positive for use of the drug indicated in the table if their urine is tested by two immunoassays and a confirmation test and each test determines that the concentration of a prohibited drug or its metabolite is at or above the cutoff concentration.

An approved immunoassay method for detecting the heroin metabolite 6-acetylmorphine (6-AM) may be used in addition to or in lieu of currently approved opiate immunoassays. The approved cutoff concentration for the 6-AM immunoassay is shown in the table. If a valid confirmation test and at least one of the two required immunoassay screening tests of a donated urine specimen are positive for 6-AM, then the requirements that the morphine concentration be at or above 4000 ng/mL and medical review are both waived and the donor will be reported as positive for heroin use.

Medical Officer review is still required in evaluating prohibited drug use by military members whose urine is reported positive for amphetamine, secobarbital, butalbital, phenobarbital, morphine, and codeine. Additional Department requirements are in DoD Instruction 1010.16, Technical Procedures for the Military Personnel Drug Abuse Testing Program, 1994.

This memorandum is effective on March 1, 2004. My point of contact is Colonel Mick Smith, at telephone (703) 697-5607, and email mick.smith@osd.mil.

Thomas W. O'Connell

Attachment:
As stated

Table. Cutoff Concentrations in the Military Drug Abuse Testing Program

INITIAL TESTING CUTOFF CONCENTRATIONS

Drug Class	Cutoff Concentration (ng/mL)
Amphetamines	500
Barbiturates	200
Cannabinoids	50
Cocaine metabolites	150
PCP	25
Opiates (morphine)	2000
Opiates (6-AM)	10
LSD	0.5

CONFIRMATION CUTOFF CONCENTRATIONS

Initial Presumptive Positive Test	Confirmation Drug / Metabolite	Cutoff Concentration (ng/mL)	Reported Drug Use
Amphetamines	Amphetamine	500	Amphetamine
	Methamphetamine	500	Methamphetamine*
	MDMA	500	MDMA
	MDA	500	MDA
	MDEA	500	MDEA
Barbiturates	Secobarbital	200	Secobarbital
	Butalbital	200	Butalbital
	Phenobarbital	200	Phenobarbital
Cannabinoids	Δ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid	15	THC
Cocaine metabolites	Benzoyllecgonine	100	Cocaine
PCP	PCP	25	PCP
Opiates (morphine)	Morphine	4000	Morphine
	Codeine	2000	Codeine
	6-AM	10	Heroin [†]
Opiates (6-AM)	6-AM	10	Heroin
LSD	LSD	0.2	LSD
	2-oxo-3-hydroxyLSD	1	LSD
*d isomer must be equal to or greater than 20% of total methamphetamine present			
[†] morphine concentration must be equal to or greater than 4000 ng/mL			

Attachment

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